

## THE CHAGRES RIVER.

Probably the view which we present on this page will be the means of recalling to the minds of many of our readers, scenes which have almost been forgotten. Those of our residents who came from the East by the Isthmus route will recognize the beautiful tropical scenery which adorns the banks of the Chagres river. In early days, before the completion of the railroad, the Isthmus journey was partially made by ascending the Chagres as far as possible in canoes. The river is 120 miles long, and passes through a region of wondrous fertility.

**AUTOMATIC CLOCK.**—Felix Meier, a Bavarian mechanic at Detroit, has built a clock which is said to surpass the famous Strauburg timepiece. It stands in an elaborately carved walnut case, 18 feet high and 7 or 8 broad, and has a dial which represents the entire planetary system, from the signs of the zodiac to the correct positions of the earth toward the sun in the different seasons, and the revolutions of all the planets about the sun at their respective distances and times. Separate dials also give the correct time at New York, London, St. Petersburg, San Francisco, and all the leading cities of the world.

**A NOVEL AND SWIFT VESSEL.**—A steam catamaran is being built at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. It differs from anything in this line ever before designed. In some respects it is similar to an ordinary catamaran, the hull being in effect an ordinary hull split in two, the halves being placed about fifteen feet apart, and the boarded perpendicular sides being exactly parallel to each other. These two half-hulls are joined together by heavy beams. The width of the deck is thirty feet and the length seventy. The hulls of Mr. Merritt's catamaran will be fifty-one feet on the keel, with only seven feet beam and five feet depth, so that while the deck is almost half as wide as it is long, the hulls are very long and narrow, and will displace little water and offer no more resistance than a single narrow hull. In each hull will be placed a twenty-five horse power engine operating two wheels, so that the vessel will have four wheels, two between and two outside of the hulls. The wheels themselves are of peculiar construction, being eight feet in diameter and of the kind known as the "feathering." The paddles are not fixed, but are moveable, and by a simple latching and unlatching process are held at right angles to the water while plunging into it, and while coming out are edgewise. Thus all the power is directly applied to forward pro-

## ANCIENT HUMAN SKULL.

From the diary of Thomas Beech of London, who died in Colorado about one year ago, we give an abstract of the discovery by him of a human skull in a deposit, the age of which he was prevented from discussing by his sudden death. "In passing westward from the Missouri to the Rocky mountains through Nebraska, northern Kansas, Wyoming and Colorado to the upper member of the drift series, the equivalent of the brown clay of Illinois is found to be continuous up to the base of the mountains. Drift gravel is generally found below it or is contained in patches in it. Nearing the mountains the clay is of a darker color and a more sandy texture, and has often pebbles and stones scattered through it. Large boulders are also met with near the mountains, and beds of sub-angular boulders and pebbles, nearly always of crystalline rocks, skirt the flanks of the mountains, run up the sides of the valleys opening into them, and cap isolated hills in front of them to heights of about 8,000 feet above the sea.

"In the neighborhood of Denver the sandy clay covers the whole country, excepting on the



SCENE ON THE CHAGRES RIVER.

The big dial is supported by statuettes of William Cullen Bryant and Prof. Morse, and the case is surmounted by a bronze figure of Columbus. In carved niches at each side of the dial stands a baby, a youth, a middle-aged man, an old man and the skeleton figure of Death. The baby strikes the quarter hour on a tinkling bell; the boy, the half hour on a clear-toned bell; the strong man, the three-quarter hour on a full-toned bell, with a hammer, while the gray beard strikes a weaker bell, and then Death tolls the full hour. When the knell of the hour is gone a lively national air strikes up, and all the Presidents down to Hayes emerge from a door guarded by a colored servant, and file before Washington, who sits under a canopy surmounted by 37 stars at the top of the case. As the Presidents draw up in front of Washington, he rises and waves a copy of the Declaration of Independence. The Presidents salute him and pass across a platform and out of a door opened for them by another colored servant. Meier has spent 10 years and \$30,000 on this clock.

"**MANY MICKLES MAKE A MUCKLE.**"—According to the calculation of Mr. G. T. C. Bartley, an ounce of bread wasted daily in each household in England and Wales is equal to 25,000,000 quarter loaves, the produce of 30,000 acres of wheat, and enough to feast annually 100,000 people. An ounce of meat wasted is equal to 300,000 sheep.

pulsions, and none whatever is wasted in lifting or depressing the vessel. It is thought that this novel craft will be able to make thirty miles an hour.

**ANOTHER RAILWAY BRIDGE FOR NIAGARA RIVER.**—In 1849 the Lewiston Suspension Bridge Company and the Queenston Suspension Bridge Company were organized, the first on this side and the second on the Canada side of the Niagara river. They built a highway suspension bridge at Lewiston, and maintained it for some time. It blew over one day and was never repaired. The ruins of the structure still remain in the form of masonry on each side of the river, and one cable still suspended. The *Owego Palladium* says that the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg and the Great Western (Canada) railway companies have bought the stock of the old companies above named and formed a company with \$1,000,000 capital to build a bridge at Lewiston. The work will be begun immediately. The bridge will be one of the finest of the kind in the world. The river at the point to be crossed is 600 feet wide. The bridge will be a steel truss structure of one span, and will be a railroad and highway bridge. The object of the parties in interest is to accommodate the local trade of the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg road and that of northern New England and the West.

steeper slopes, where it is sometimes absent denudation. It is often as much as 20 feet in thickness, and contains here and there boulders of crystalline rocks scattered through it. In some of the sections these are sufficiently numerous to make it a boulder-clay. Much of it is unstratified and with vertical joints.

"While examining the sides of a cutting through this deposit on the Colorado Central railway, near the top of the low watershed between the South Platte and its tributary, Clear creek, I noticed a whitish substance on the face of the cutting. On clipping round it with a knife it proved to be the top of a human skull. It was in perfectly undisturbed loess-like clay, at a depth of three feet nine inches from the surface. At the same horizon at intervals were small angular pieces of miocene wood. No other bones were found, and none of the teeth. Seventy yards distant I found what appears to be a portion of a human rib.

"Isolated bones of other animals than man are not uncommon in the neighborhood of Denver and near the foot-hills in the brown clay and associated drift gravels. Besides those found by myself, Prof. Lakes, of Golden, and Mr. H. C. Towner, of Denver, have collected many specimens. Among these, bones of the common buffalo seem to be most frequently met with."

A MAN recently knocked down an elephant, a lion and a rhinoceros, all at one time. He was an auctioneer.